Enforcement of ECA

459. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the results of the enforcement of the Essential Commodities Act in 2006 with respect to the number of raids conducted, persons arrested, prosecuted and convicted; and

(b) the details of value of goods confiscated thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The enforcement of the essential Commodities Act, 1955 lies with the State Government/UT Administrations. The enforcement of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 for the year 2006 as reported by the States/UTs upto 30.6.2006 with respect to the numbers of raids conducted, persons arrested, prosecuted, convicted and the value of goods confiscated are given below:

No. of Raids	No. of Persons Arrested	No. of Persons Prosecuted	No. of Persons Convicted	Value of goods Confiscated (In Rs. Lakhs)
30920	1617	1097	35	679.1

Import of sugar

460. SHRI B.K HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's notification dated 23rd June, 2006 allowing-import of white sugar at zero duty for a period of three months, upto 50th September, 2006 has brought about expected relief to domestic consumers;

(b) whether in comparison to customs gate price of imported sugar, domestic sugar is still cheap in whole-sale market at around Rs. 18.50 per kg; and

(c) whether with the forthcoming festive season of Dussehra and Diwali, Government expect to do away with imports which has failed to bring down the prices for common consumers?